

I CLAIM:

1. In a cable data delivery network for delivering digital data to a host location upon a subscriber initiated request, apparatus for authenticating that the subscriber is authorized to use said network, said apparatus comprising:

a network manager including a database of authorized users and a validation agent;

said host location including a telephone dial up device for the subscriber to log onto said network and connect to said network manager using said identification information, wherein said validation agent authorizes the subscriber to use said network in accordance with a comparison of said identification information to said authorized users in said database.

2. The apparatus of claim 1 wherein said identification information includes a subscriber USERID.

3. The apparatus of claim 2 wherein said identification information includes a subscriber password.

4. The apparatus of claim 3 wherein said database includes an associated USERID and password for each of said authorized users.

5. The apparatus of claim 4 wherein said validation agent authorizes said subscriber to use said network in accordance with a comparison of said subscriber USERID and said subscriber password to USERIDS and passwords stored in said data base.

6. The apparatus of claim 5 wherein said dial up device includes a cable data receiver for receiving said digital data.

7. The apparatus of claim 6 wherein said call up device is uniquely identify by an electronic identifying number.

8. The apparatus of claim 7 wherein said database further includes authorized identifying numbers for said dial up devices.

9. The apparatus of claim 8 wherein said validation agent authorizes said call up device to receive said digital data in accordance with a comparison of said identifying number of said call up device with said identifying numbers stored in said database.